

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

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February 8, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I write today regarding the State Of Iowa's plans to transition their Medicaid program to a privatized managed care system. I have significant concerns about this proposal, as I have expressed to your administration on several occasions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has delayed Iowa's transition date from January 1, 2016 to March 1, 2016, but as we near the new deadline I wish to draw your attention to the ongoing problems the state is facing.

You and I share the goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care. Over half a million Iowans depend on Medicaid for free or affordable health care. Medicaid serves particularly vulnerable populations, including low-income families, children, seniors and individuals with disabilities. Many of these patients are new to Medicaid since the state expanded its program through the Affordable Care Act, and I have strong concerns that this change will cause disruptions in their care – disruptions that pose particularly serious risks to children and adults with special needs.

I have spoken personally to many Iowans who would be impacted by this change, including the parents of children with disabilities. Each day, these parents are scared that their children will not be able to access the life sustaining therapies they need once the transition is made. They do not know whether they will be able to see the providers they trust or which plan will cover the services they need. These parents are not getting the answers they need.

These patients' care must not be compromised by this move to privatize Medicaid. I urge you and your administration to carefully consider the consequences of this transition. Should you determine that the Iowa Department of Human Services is not prepared to provide an adequate level of care under the proposed new system, I urge you to deny their waiver request.

Sincerely,



Dave Loebsack
Iowa's Second District